

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

February 21, 2012

Beginning in 1929, government authorities and certain private sector entities in California and throughout the United States undertook an aggressive program to forcibly remove persons of Mexican ancestry from the United States known as the "Mexican Repatriation of the 1930's". An estimated 2 million people of Mexican ancestry were forced to relocate to Mexico—approximately 1.2 million were United States citizens; approximately 400,000 American citizens and legal residents of Mexican ancestry were from California alone.

Throughout California, massive raids were conducted on Mexican-American communities, resulting in the clandestine removal of thousands of people, many of whom were never able to return to the United States, their country of birth. These raids coerced thousands of people to leave the Nation in the face of threats and acts of violence. These raids targeted persons of Mexican ancestry; authorities and others indiscriminately characterizing these persons as "illegal aliens" even when they were United States citizens or permanent legal residents.

MOTION

Molina \_\_\_\_\_

Ridley-Thomas \_\_\_\_\_

Knabe \_\_\_\_\_

Antonovich \_\_\_\_\_

Yaroslavsky \_\_\_\_\_

During the 1930's in California and other states secured transportation arrangements with railroads, automobiles, ships to effectuate the wholesale removal of persons of Mexican ancestry from the United States to Mexico. Families were forced to abandon, or were defrauded of, personal and real property, which often was sold by local authorities as "payment" for the transportation expenses incurred in their removal from the United States to Mexico.

United States citizens and legal residents were separated from their families and country and were deprived of their livelihood and United States constitutional rights, and many were never reunited with their families. Regrettably, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors participated in these efforts.

In 2005, the California State Legislature passed SB670 authored by Senator Joe Dunn formally apologizing for these acts on behalf of the State of California, and for the fundamental violations of their basic civil liberties and constitutional rights. Thanks to the efforts of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), the State of California will formally apologize to these families by installing a commemorative plaque that will be unveiled at LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes this weekend.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that this Board issue a formal apology on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, for actions taken by the County as part of the repatriation of persons of Mexican ancestry during the 1930's, which indiscriminately and forcibly removed thousands of U.S. Citizens, depriving them of their livelihood and separating them from their families.

FC/ld